



Mississippi Baptists serve

Immediately after Hurricane Elena took a swipe at the Mississippi coast, Mississippi Baptists and Baptists from other states responded with hot food and help with cleanup. Story begins on page 3 with a two page photo spread on pages 4-5. (Story and photos by Tim Nicholas).

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 12, 1985

Published Since 1877

Baptist workers weep in midst of famine

By Art Toalston

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — "I'm still having trouble eating . . . I'm really having trouble sleeping."

Volunteer nurse Mary Saunders isn't suffering from a physical disorder. She's coping with what she saw in Ethiopia for five months "such overwhelming hunger" — compared

"The biggest decision I had to make every day when everybody (at Rabel) was hungry, (was) who was going to get two meals a day and who was going to get three meals, who was going to get a blanket and who had enough to stay warm without a blanket."

Rains have come to Ethiopia and other famine areas in Africa, but several productive planting seasons still are needed before the crisis abates. Hunger, in the meantime, will remain. Just before she left, several hundred Ethiopians from another region have walked eight to 12 hours toward Rabel in search of food. "Many of them died on the way, many of them died just outside the (feeding station) camp."

The rains, which Southern Baptists and other Christians around the world had prayed for, were "the most beautiful music I've ever heard," Saunders said. She made a tape recording of the rain hitting the tin roof of the building where she stayed because "I wanted to hear it again and again."

And she smiled when recalling that, in working in behalf of Southern Baptists, "I watched skinny little arms and skinny little legs fill out, cheeks fill out, and babies grow."

Saunders credited prayers of fellow Baptists as "the reason . . . strength was just so available when, ordinarily, it shouldn't have been . . . My feet felt like they had wings on them."

Sometimes food stockpiles would run low. But whenever that happened, the workers, after their early morn-

last December, Bedsole said it was "very, very common for ladies and sometimes men and old people to lie down in front of you with their face to the ground begging for food." He saw "children so weak they couldn't walk. (They) had to be carried or (they) moved like slow motion."

Ethiopians are "a proud people . . . They have a dignity about them. They're not beggars," Bedsole said. People in the Rabel area were so far removed from civilization before the drought "they never learned to beg."

Drought-stricken areas of Africa are no different than other places where people need the message of Jesus Christ, he said. But, "For people who are so hungry, there's nothing but food on their minds, physical food. They're in such a condition that, many times, their minds are not functioning properly to hear the spiritual message until you get some food in their stomachs. When you have mass starvation . . . it does no good to stand up and start preaching 'God will bless you.' Folks in that condition . . . cannot receive it without first knowing that a cup of water in the name of Jesus is being given."

"I don't have a lot of sympathy for people in America who grumble about their conditions. This country has more than any other country, such as excess. I'm not being critical of that."

"Southern Baptists are sharing it, but I think there's a much larger scale we could share it on. In many instances, I'm convinced that many of our people could live a simpler lifestyle and be capable of giving much more to God's work around the world."

Art Toalston writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



Jerry Bedsole

to "so much food" in the United States.

Saunders worked at the Southern Baptist-sponsored feeding station in Rabel, Ethiopia, which has been dispensing one-month rations of wheat, milk powder, and oil to about 30,000 drought victims since March. The station also gives shelter and medical care to the severely malnourished.

She is the wife of Davis Saunders, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for eastern and southern Africa. The Saunderses were missionaries in Africa from 1951 to 1972.

Just eight days after leaving Ethiopia, she spoke during Foreign Mission Week at the Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Another speaker was Jerry Bedsole, missionary veterinarian to Ethiopia.

Saunders' difficulty in eating stems from "feeling the hurt . . . of such need among these precious (Ethiopian) people. My heart feels like it's just so big that there's no room for my stomach."

In trying to sleep, she sees a "sea of faces of hungry people, ragged people . . . I try to reach out" until remembering that she's back in America.

"I've lived so very closely with both life and death," she said. "These last few months, I've cried more than I've cried in many, many years . . . A number of mothers put their babies at my feet, begging me to take them because they felt hopeless."

"A sea of hungry people ragged people . . . I try to reach out . . ."

ing prayers, would "hear that old truck lumbering along" the donkey path that had become the road to Rabel. "We never had to send anybody away without food."

A regular avenue of witness came as "people constantly tried to kiss my feet for being there," Mrs. Saunders recounted. She would respond by saying "Praise the Lord" in Amharic, the native language, "lifting them up and pointing them to heaven."

Bedsole, a Southern Baptist missionary to Ethiopia since 1970, jokingly described himself as "the world's No. 1 donkey doctor," joshing he treated half of the five million donkeys in Ethiopia prior to the drought. A more realistic estimate of his veterinarian caseload, he said, is 12,000 to 15,000 cows, sheep, and other animals every year.

But he, too, has "cried like never before."

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Mexicans grow

ACAPULCO, Mexico—Mexican Baptist ranks have expanded 15 percent in the last year. Churches baptized a record 7,269 people for the year ending in July, according to National Baptist Convention of Mexico statistics, bringing total convention membership to 55,297.

Mexican Baptists also are planning to reactivate their foreign mission program, which has been on hold since Mexican missionaries Jose and Susana Guzman came home from Honduras two years ago.

Rebels don't stop

SANTIAGO ATITLAN, Guatemala—The Paul Bell Baptist Theological Institute recently awarded a diploma to its first graduate in more than three years, despite guerrilla activities in the area.

Guerrillas burned a courthouse two miles from the institute in January, causing pastors and missionaries to question the safety of continuing classes. Enrollment has been hindered, but classes continue for nine students.

"God is awesome"

SHIRLEYSBURG, Penn. (EP) — Thousands of people from the United States and Canada gathered at a mountain retreat here in early August for a three-day revival billed as a Christian "Woodstock." An estimated 12,000 attended Jesus '85, and about 600 people were baptized in a farm pond on the campgrounds as the festival concluded. The festival is billed as one of the largest of its kind in the United States.

Christian musician Roger Cooper warmed up the crowd by having them hug each other and sing "Cast Out The Devil" to the tune of "Beer Barrel Polka." Fluorescent T-shirts saying "God is Awesome" and bumperstickers reading, "Happiness is Knowing You're Going to Heaven," abounded at the 288-acre Agape Campground, which is owned by the nonprofit Jesus Ministries, Inc.

Nuns take on IRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — In 1979 Olivia Woltering earned \$6,174.96 from her job helping alcoholics; she gave all of the money to her order of nuns, honoring her vows of poverty and obedience. But the Internal Revenue Service spent nearly three years and an undisclosed amount in attorney and court costs to win a \$310 claim against Woltering for unpaid federal taxes.

The IRS won similar battles against four other nuns from Woltering's order; the government stands to collect a total of \$4,981 from the five nuns. The nuns' order has appealed the Tax Court's decision to the Seventh U.S. Court of Appeals.

The IRS position is that the nuns earned the money as private individuals and must pay taxes.

"It's a monumental case," explained Mary Gassmann Richert, a St. Louis attorney who is handling the nuns' appeal. "They were not practicing law or digging ditches or doing some proprietary job. They were doing what religious orders have always done . . . These sisters were doing classic religious, charitable work."

Moscow threatens

SANTIAGO, Chile (EP) — Radio Moscow has issued severe threats against a Christian student movement that has been successfully evangelizing university students throughout South America. According to Open Doors News Service, the threats were made against the "Revolution of Jesus Christ," a group of evangelicals whose radical approach to presenting the Gospel on major university campuses in Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay and Argentina has caught the attention of Marxist student organizations in the region.

"Our forces," said one broadcast, "should not rest until we have annihilated the oppressive 'Revolution of Jesus Christ.' We must declare direct war against the leaders and annihilate them."

Casanova also said Radio Moscow has charged him and his associates, in repeated broadcasts, of being agents of Chile's Pinochet government and of the CIA.



Mary Saunders

Editorials by don mcgregor

Good News . . . Mississippi

Two events among the several related to Good News America in Mississippi need to be mentioned prominently at this time. The first is three-fold: Scripture Distribution Day, Prospect Discovery Day, and High Attendance Day. This is Sept. 15, which is Sunday.

The second is the simultaneous revivals April 6 through 13 and April 20 through 27 of next year.

Other events in the process of building up to the Good News America revival will be mentioned later.

Scripture distribution and prospect discovery are tied in together in this instance. Some churches have already begun their prospect discovery and are distributing Scripture. This is commendable.

But regardless of whether or not the process has begun, the procedure deserves comment. The idea is that as surveyors go from house to house to find the prospects that are in their midst they will present each family a New Testament.

There is nothing that they could do that would be more meaningful. Not only does the idea of presenting a gift as the survey is being taken make the residents more responsive, but also the fact that they have been given Scripture is a factor in salvation. The Lord said his Word would not return to him void. He will bless its availability, and the presentation of the New Testaments from door to door will bear fruit.

Hopefully, the surveyors will deliver a brief word of testimony as they present the Bibles before asking for information.

We are all familiar with various methods of prospect discovery and

with efforts to establish high attendance goals and accomplish them. They are both very important facets in reaching people with the gospel. We have to find the lost and unchurched, and make contact before we can begin to witness.

And witnessing is what this entire concept of Good News America in Mississippi is all about.

The witnessing is going to be made more meaningful this time because the plan is to leave a special edition of the Scripture everywhere there is a visit made. This special edition will be used in Mississippi and nationwide to help point the lost to Christ and to guide the unenlisted back into the fold. Holman Publishers, the Bible publishing arm of the Sunday School Board, is printing these copies of the scripture.

Copies are available in the King James Version, the New American Standard Bible, and in Spanish.

These are marked editions of the New Testament that will carry the reader through the plan of salvation. They point out the page numbers needed and provide underlining for the meaningful verses.

So now the Day of March Has Come. We are moving toward the simultaneous revivals during April of next year, and this prospect discovery and Scripture distribution has a great deal to do with those revivals.

The Evangelism Department and the Sunday School Department have joined forces to get the job done for Good News America in Mississippi.

These Sunday School activities during September are vital to the success of Good News Mississippi. If scripture distribution has already begun, that is commendable. If not, this is an important prelude to a harvest of souls in the spring.

And in the spring what a harvest it should be! Southern Baptists have been disappointed in recent years concerning our baptism experiences. The ratio of members to baptisms has been growing further and further apart. We can change the direction of this experience next spring, and we should be determined to do it.

The primary leaders in these emphases to this point are Keith Wilkinson, director of the Sunday School Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Guy Henderson, director of the Evangelism Department. Other areas of Mississippi Baptist life will be called into action as the months are counted down toward the simultaneous revivals.

For instance, waiting just over the horizon is Bold Mission Launch Day — 1985-90 on Oct. 6, to be promoted by the Church Training Department.

Mose Dangerfield is director. Then throughout October and November there will be an emphasis on Planned Growth in Giving that will be promoted by the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department. David Michel, consultant in that department, is state director for Planned Growth in Giving. James Yates, pastor of First Church,

Yazoo City, is state chairman. John Alexander is department director.

There will be other emphases along the way, all pointed toward winning the lost during the simultaneous revivals that will be held in April.

The entire concept is a part of Bold Mission Thrust. The purpose is to make a Christian witness available for every person on the earth by the year 2000. However, not only is the year 2000 only 15 years away, but also many are dying every day who have not heard the gospel. We can't wait until the year 2000 to try to complete the task; for if we do we will have miss-

ed a great host of people who will have passed on without hearing, and thus we will have missed our mark right from the first.

It is hoped that there will be 560,000 baptisms across the nation as a result of the simultaneous revivals and all of the activity building up to them.

Surely we will do our part in Mississippi. Our evangelism efforts have not led to great numbers of baptisms over the past few years, so we must be interested in seeing a change come about.

We are going to work right now to bring about that change.

Personal Attention To The 'Nobodies'



Guest opinion . . .

Sunrise or sunset?

By Kirby Tyrone

Sunrise or sunset?

That terminology has been a usage from earliest times; and it is just as applicable today as on any former occasion, depending, of course, on an individual's viewpoints and attitude.

Abraham, Moses, and Noah were imbued with a deep sense of duty, feeling that theirs was a mission that man must live up to if God's will prevailed from the beginning until time was no more. Knowing that he must do his part to make God's plan a reality, Abraham rose from his tent in Ur of the Chaldees, led his followers to a new land and a new place on earth, blazing a way to a land unknown at the time.

Moses, just as eager for a new adventure, led his people out of bondage in Egypt to a land verily "flowing with milk and honey," establishing a base for Israel as we know about it in the Bible.

And Noah, in an equally crowning achievement, built the Ark, in which man and all mankind, as well as animals of the earth, were preserved for posterity and countless generations to come.

And others, including those in the secular world, have gone to their greatest achievements — at an age

usually considered the time for their last stand — (retired and called a finished product). But such people as Commodore Vanderbilt, Robert Frost, Theodore Green and some others, sensed the possibility of a new sunrise and made the most of the future and realized the future was a time for new realities and went forward and forward!

At 69, Vanderbilt retired from the shipbuilding business a wealthy man. But his energy and his capability demanded that he go ahead to other, and later, very prosperous undertakings. He bought old railroads, built new ones, consolidated his holdings into a mechanical empire not known about until later in life.

Vanderbilt's railroad and other successes mean more than personal gain — education and all it could do for the nation resulted!

When Theodore Green was 60 he gave up a most prosperous manufacturing business. But not for long. The political world reached out to him for its mental necessities and thusly he served three terms in the governorship of Rhode Island, then to the United States Senate, where he eventually retired at 94; but along the way,

he helped develop a national foreign policy that was a model for the world when he stepped down from his position of power.

And you will recall that Winston Churchill arose from an easy seat in parliament, thrilled the free world with his magnetism, and enabled free people to live in peace and happiness once more!

Are you in your aging period, submitting to what many people consider the inevitable twilight of life? Or are

you engaging in creative work that not only will preserve your existence, but that of others in your environment as well?

Must you surrender all the wisdom you have attained and accumulated and not make it profitable for others? Nay, never, because you may yet inspire another individual to enjoy another more glorious sunrise and accomplish something yet unheard of.

Kirby Tyrone is retired and lives in Prentiss.

Tribal pastors' school result of lion killer's conversion

THIKA, Kenya (BP)—The first pastors' school for men from Kenya's semi-nomadic Maasai tribe opened Aug. 12 with 19 pastors and assistant pastors attending.

The Maasai have long been resistant to change and only seven percent of the 250,000-member tribe have become Christians, said Harold Cummins, a Southern Baptist missionary who works with the group.

But when Nairrotiai Kiriswa, who is more than 105 years old and known as a "killer of many lions," became a Christian in 1982 and changed his name to Paul Kiriswa, many Maasai became interested in hearing about Jesus Christ. The Maasai, who have great respect for the wisdom of age, consider Kiriswa "the oldest man anyone knows."

Within the past year 165 Maasai, including Chief Ole Papu, have become Christians and been baptized, said Cummins.

The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

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Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance.

Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Volume 109

Number 31

The Baptist Record

Elena strikes coast; Baptists move to help

By Tim Nicholas

After Labor Day's Hurricane Elena blew out the back wall of Griffin Street Baptist Church in Moss Point, pastor Athens McNeil told the Baptist Record, "We're open to the public... literally."

That kind of good humor, albeit grim at times, was to be found among victims and relief workers alike in the aftermath of the hurricane that played cat and mouse with the Gulf Coast over the weekend before doubling back from Florida to rip Mississippi with 125 mile an hour winds and perhaps a dozen offshoot tornadoes.

With damage estimated over a billion dollars, Mississippi Baptists' share of losses to churches and institutions was likely to run over \$3 million. Besides damages to Baptist churches, primarily in Jackson County, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly and William Carey College on the Coast were damaged.

Baptist property was open to the public during the storm, too. A number of Baptist churches served as shelters, even though some of those churches suffered damages. At First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, center of the worst damages to the coast, about 250 weathered the night of the storm. A later estimate placed damages to the church—through a roof loss and water damages—between \$350,000 and \$500,000.

By nightfall on Labor Day, Baptists were no longer simply victims. They went to work immediately after the storm helping their neighbors dig out, volunteering with helping agencies such as the Red Cross, and serving with the Baptist Disaster Relief Units. The Mississippi Baptist unit operated by the state Brotherhood Department through state mission offering funds, arrived first and set up at First Church, Pascagoula, utilizing rumor and intuition to set up there because no phone service was available in or out of the Jackson County town. A microwave transmitter had been knocked down and in-out service was not restored for days. Jim Didlake was on site coordinator. Paul Harrell is state disaster relief director.

Then came the Baptist disaster units of Alabama and Louisiana which stayed the week at First Baptist churches of Biloxi and Gulfport, respectively. The Tennessee unit remained on standby in Montgomery until coordinators decided it was not needed in the aftermath.

By the end of the week more than 20,000 meals had been served by volunteer crews on the units, with food provided by the Red Cross. And this week a kitchen set up at First presence of Baptist disaster relief work.

A number of Baptists came in from outside the coastal area to help with

cleanup and to serve as "advocates" to persons applying for governmental assistance, such as helping them fill out paperwork. On Wednesday after the storm two men from Calvary Church, Silver Creek, moved in to begin repair of the Jackson County Associational office which suffered an estimated \$60,000 in damages primarily from a lost roof. A shoe store next door was smashed flat. And a group of eight women from George and Green Associations had already arrived to help the Baptist men on the disaster van with meal preparation.

One church member told volunteers, "I'll come by tonight to help when I can. We have to minister to ourselves first." And many did offer to help. Two women, whose husbands operated a lounge, offered to help. Cook Elmo Bounds of Houston let them stir food. They returned the next day to help awhile again.

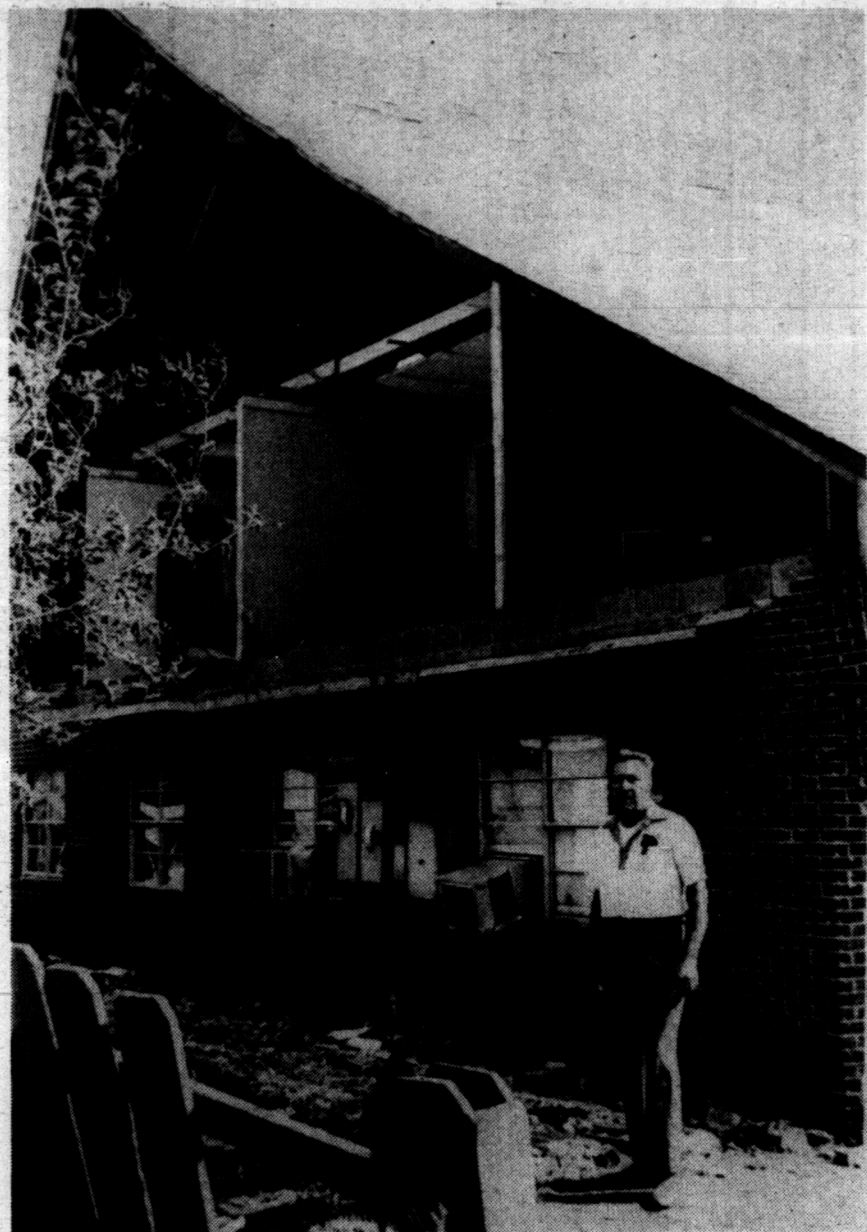
And two children worked with the Mississippi unit all week. Melissa and John McCraney, ages 11 and 9, of First, Pascagoula, stayed the week

with the unit following orders from the grown ups, providing valuable assistance to the crew. Their grandfather, Billy Witchen, also a member of First, Pascagoula, offered hot showers to the weary unit crew. Though power was off through most of the week in the area, Witchen had gas heat.

Monte Montcrief, maintenance man at the church, though his home was damaged, worked long hours at the church and even volunteered his generator to people, three hours at a time, to keep foods frozen at their homes. First Church, Long Beach, it was reported, did the same thing with a generator in their bus.

The damages to property included loss of the roof of the auditorium at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, and possible damage to the organ and newly-acquired grand piano, plus mounds of insulation pulled by winds out of ceilings. William Carey College on the Coast lost three of the four new dormitories which were under construction.

(Continued on page 7)



Hurricane Elena blew out the back wall of Griffin Street Baptist Church, Moss Point. Athens McNeil, pastor, quipped, "We're open to the public."

Priceville Church needs baby beds, pews, piano

Larry Otis, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board member from Lee County, reports on Priceville Baptist Church since its tragic fire of a few weeks ago. "The average attendance has been running around 60 per Sunday, however, the first Sunday following the fire the attendance was 94 while meeting in the Lee County Baptist Associational Building."

Another 11 persons were visiting the two members hospitalized in Greenville at the burn center.

Needs of the church include four baby beds, pews for the mobile chapel (which was provided by the convention board); children's furniture for preschool, chairs, tables; trailer(s) for Sunday School classes; piano; pulpit and chairs; metal folding chairs; folding tables; and collection plates.

The church also requests prayers for the injured men; the new pastor, Robert Rogers; the church membership; and the building committee.

Nigerian government ousted; missionaries believed safe

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—News from Nigeria was scarce in the wake of the country's Aug. 27 coup, but Southern Baptist missionaries there are believed to be safe.

The new government immediately cut communications from the country, but reports which filtered to Ivory Coast and England indicated no violence during the takeover.

Meanwhile, U.S. State Department officials said they felt there was no danger to Americans in Nigeria, according to Betty Kay Abell, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's associate director for West Africa. The state department indicated the country was calm and activities were returning to normal the day after the coup.

Almost 100 of the 120 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Nigeria were in the country when the military overthrew the government and named Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, the army chief of staff, as president and leader of the armed forces. Babangida led the 1983 coup which overthrew a civilian government and installed now-deposed Maj. Gen. Muhammadu Buhari.

Brazilians baptize 674 in a day

RECIFE, Brazil — Baptists in the Brazilian state of Pernambuco recently baptized 674 people in a single day. The event attracted baptismal candidates from 101 churches and thousands of spectators to an isolated site on the banks of the Beberibe River.

It marked the 100th anniversary of the day Southern Baptist missionary Z. C. Taylor immersed the state's first Baptist convert in 1885.

M. T. McGregor, 83, editor's father, dies

M. T. McGregor, 83, died Friday, Sept. 6, at St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital of a massive heart attack.



McGregor

He was the father of Donald T. McGregor, editor of the Baptist Record. Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at Raymond Baptist Church, Raymond, Miss. Sam Mason, Raymond pastor, conducted the service, assisted by Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Lanny Wilbourn, pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon. Graveside services were at 2:30 p.m., Sept. 10, at Rosamound Cemetery, Waco, Tex.

McGregor, a Baptist preacher for over 50 years, was a member of the Raymond Baptist Church. He moved from Texarkana, Ark., to a small farm west of Raymond in 1980, a year after his wife's death. He had retired in 1970 after 22 years as director of missions for the Hope Baptist Association in southwest Arkansas. In Texarkana, he and his wife were members of the Beech Street Baptist Church.

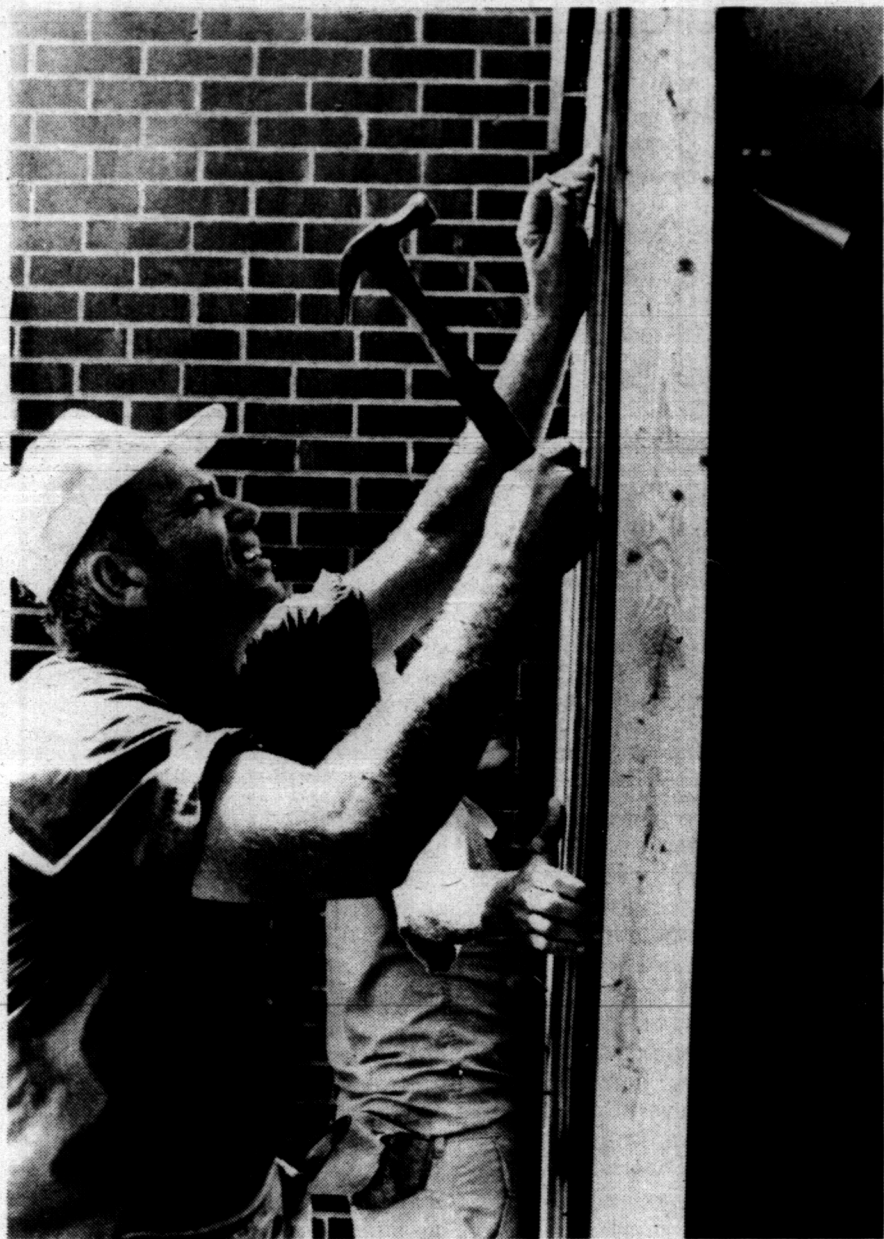
McGregor was born in Moody,

Tex., married Flora Welch on Oct. 14, 1922, and was a farmer until 1928, when he entered the ministry and enrolled at Baylor University at Waco. After graduation in 1933, he was pastor of several small Baptist churches near San Angelo, Tex., the last of which was Mertzon.

In 1942 he joined the U.S. Army as chaplain, studied at chaplains' school at Harvard, and was assigned to a troopship carrying soldiers overseas. Later in World War II he was stationed in England, and was at Dorchester with troops leaving for the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. His son and only child, Don, was also in the Army and had been sent to the combat zone in Europe. While still in England, he received a telegram from his wife in late December, 1944, that Don had been missing in action since Dec. 2. Though McGregor did not know it at the time, his son had been captured by the German army and was being held prisoner in Czechoslovakia.

Following the war, McGregor received a master's degree from Baylor University in 1947, in the same commencement service where Don received a bachelor of arts degree. He had begun study at Southwestern Seminary in Fort

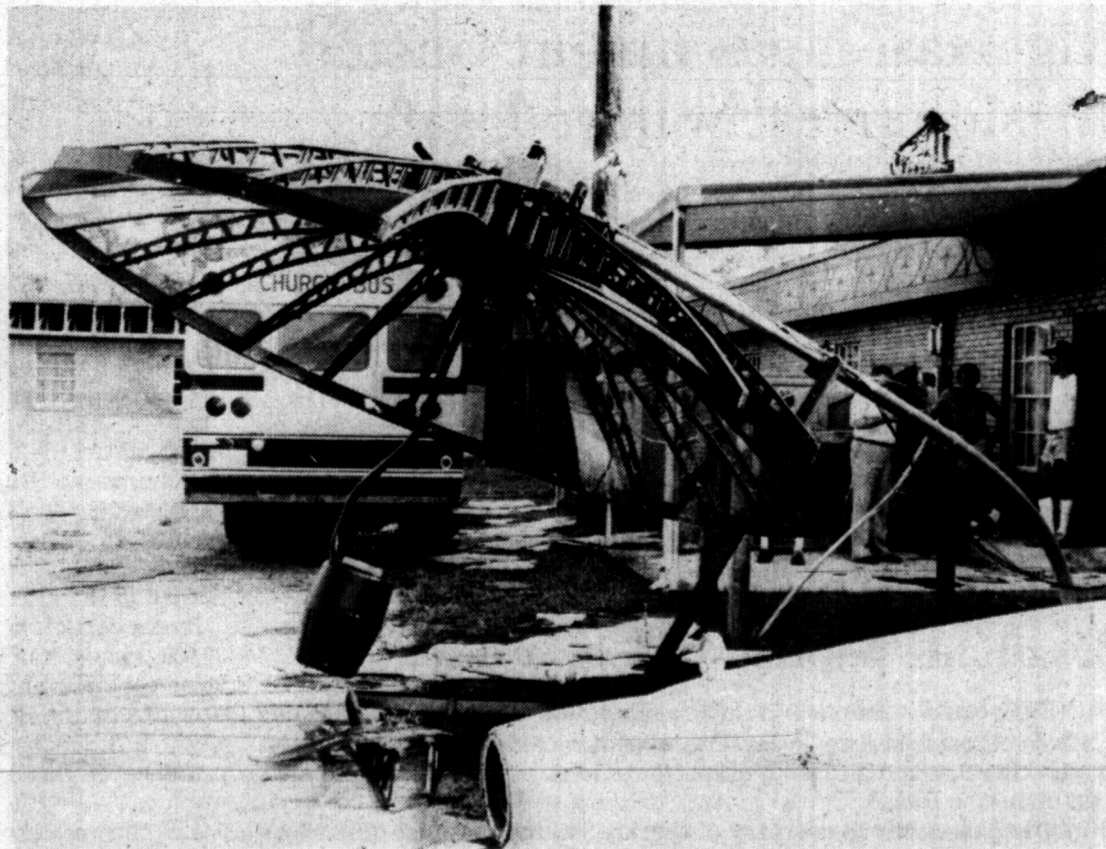
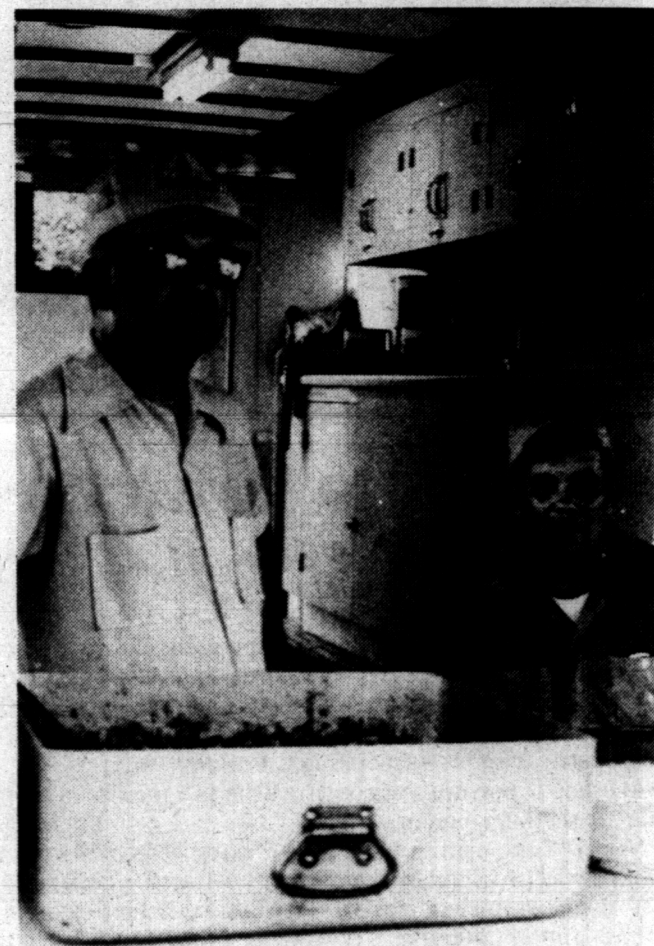
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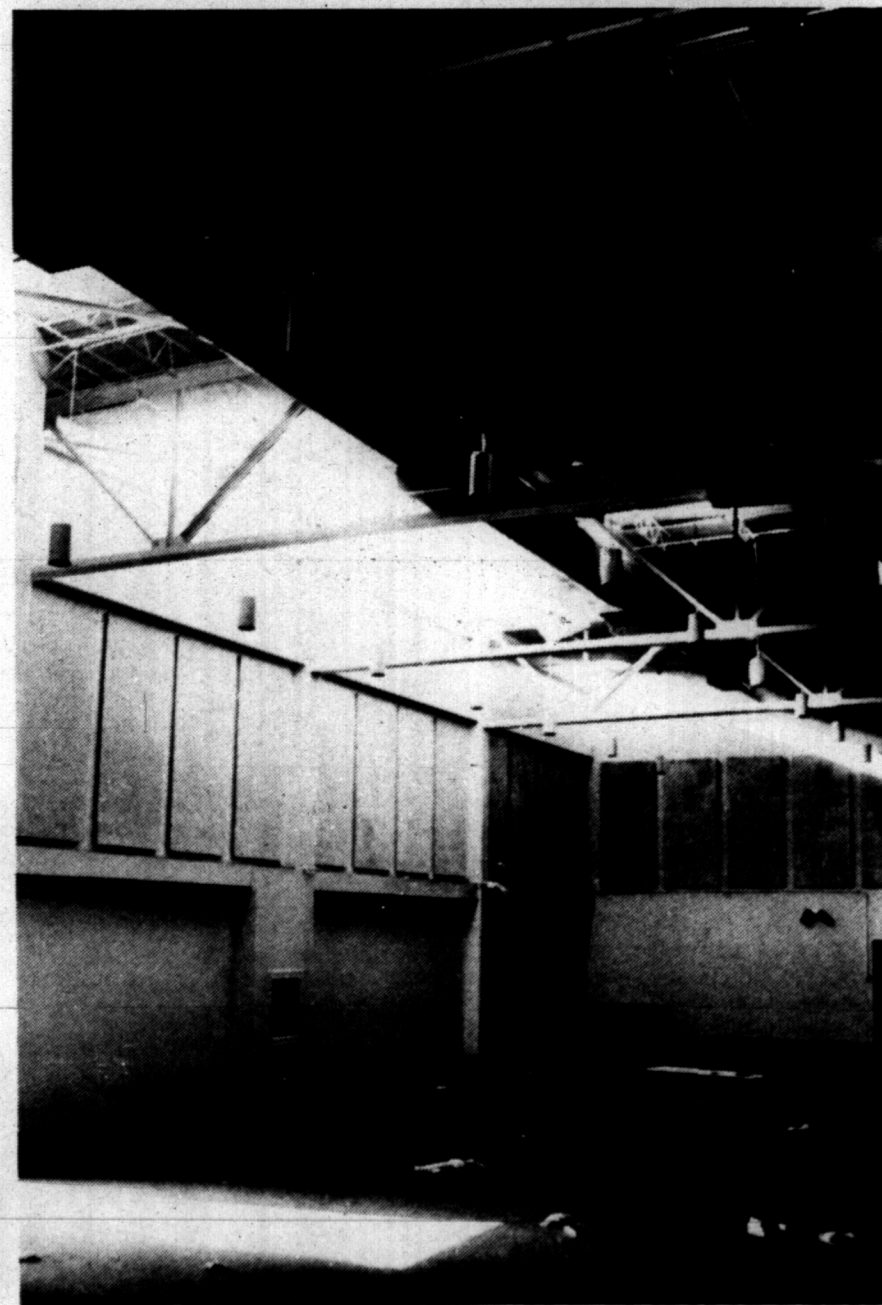
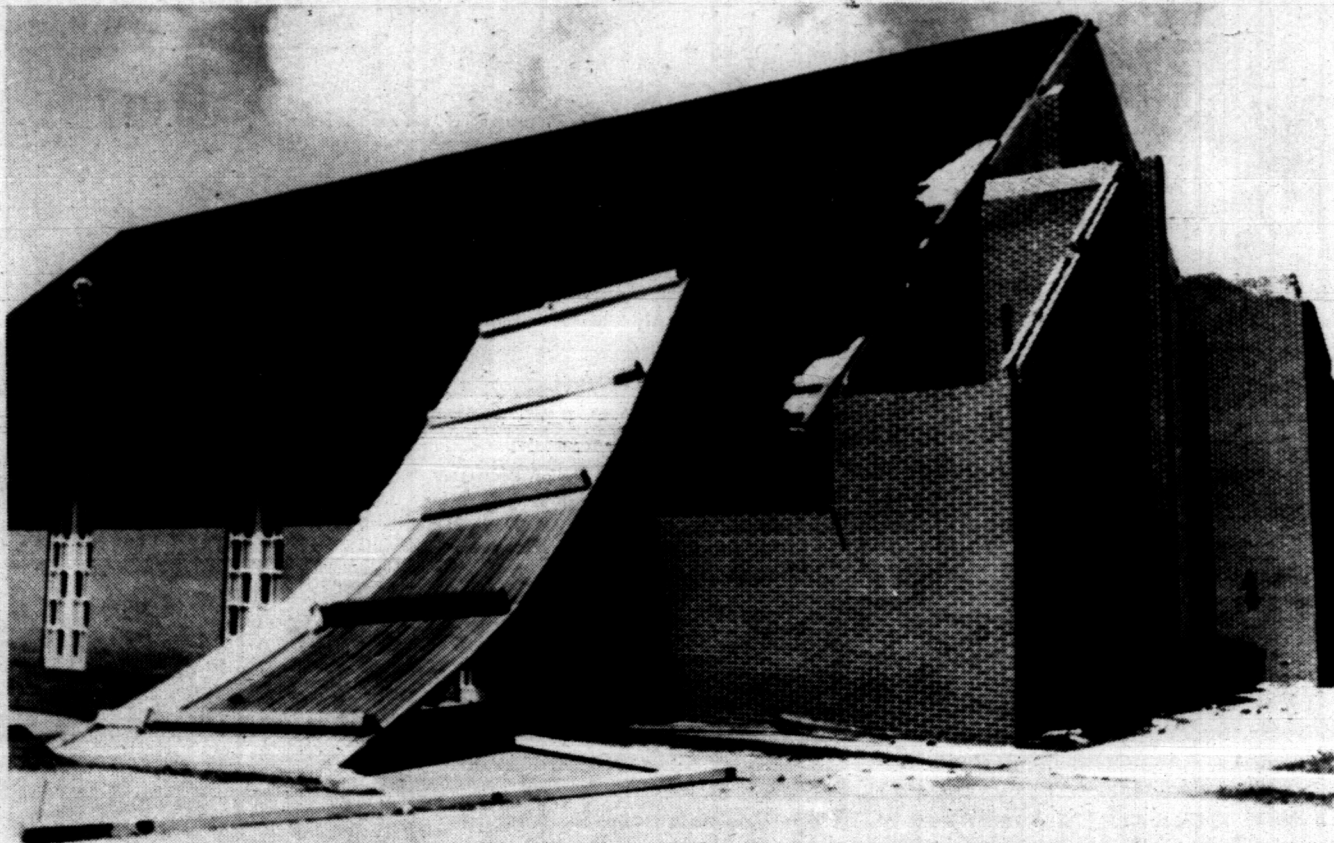


Elena's aftermath

This page, clockwise from top left: Charlie Turnage and John L. Miller of Calvary, Silver Creek, do stopgap repairs on the Jackson County Assn. offices; the mail won't fall out of this mailbox; brothers J. D. and Charles Ford serve at the Louisiana units; the BTN uplink at Escatawpa Church kneels; children enjoy a meal at the Mississippi unit; and Midway Church loses a roof.

Next page, clockwise from top left: future dorm at Carey on the Coast flattened; First, Gautier, loses a roof . . . again; John Humphreys and Charlie Mullinax of Emmanuel, Biloxi, sit where a slant roof once was; Gulfshore auditorium has direct sunlight pouring in; John McLaren, an Alabama director of missions, far left, works with other volunteers at the Alabama unit; the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Unit served thousands of hot meals to weary victims and workers in Pascagoula; and center picture John and Melissa McCraney, special volunteers, worked all week long with the Mississippi unit. (Tim Nicholas photos).





Clower will return to East Fork to help celebrate 175th year

Jerry Clower of Yazoo City will help his old home church, East Fork, Smithdale, in Amite County, celebrate its 175th anniversary this weekend, Sept. 13, 14, and 15. His speech is scheduled for Friday evening, Sept. 13. East Fork is the church where he grew up; his mother is still a member there.

Other keynote speakers will be O. B. Beverly, Sunday morning; and Will Campbell, Sunday afternoon. Beverly, now retired, was formerly pastor of Woodville Church for 20 years and is now interim pastor, Woodville (Amite). Campbell, former member of East Fork, is a preacher and author.

The theme of the celebration is "East Fork's Past Inspires Faith in the Future."

The Friday evening service will begin at 6:45 p.m. and will include, in addition to the Clower's speech, presentation of costumes and beads; special music; testimonials by Kent Campbell, James Honea, and J. B. Pray. Clyde Whittington, Sr., church historian, will present a slide presentation, "Pictorial Review of By-Gone Years," both Friday and Saturday nights.

A historical museum will be open all day Saturday, Sept. 14, at the old East Fork Store. There will be gospel singing from 10:30 until 2 on Sat., Sept. 14.

Saturday night's service, beginning with the musical prelude at 6:45, will include special music, congregational singing, and testimonials by Clay Campbell, Stuart Hemphill, and others.

Sunday's services will begin at 9:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.; lunch will be served at the church. The morning's session will include recognition of former pastors; a message from O. B. Beverly; a reading of the church history, and special music. Sunday afternoon's program will have an address by Will Campbell, and "worship in music and song."

East Fork Church was organized Aug. 18, 1810, and constituted on Sept. 15, 1810, in the home of James Chandler on the east fork of the Amite River. This church was known as New Constitution. There were fourteen charter members.

In 1812 the first meeting house was built just west of the present church cemetery and the name changed to East Fork.

In those days, the church houses were mostly built of round pine poles

and hewn logs. For seats a log was usually split and legs placed underneath. Oftentimes, the hard-packed earth served as a floor.

Charles Felder was the first longtime pastor; his tenure was 24 years: 1819-1843. He was followed by Zachariah Reeves who was a much loved pastor until his death in 1871—a period of 28 years.

May 1887—the Church contracted with J. W. Dickey for construction of a new church building to be completed by Oct. 1, 1887. This is the present main auditorium and is built of longleaf yellow pine, sawed by Dickey's Water Operated Mill on an upright saw.

"The standout periods from a religious standpoint have been the periods of long tenure under leadership of one pastor. J. H. Lane was pastor 11 years and Elisha Gardner 13 years. It is in eras of long tenure that a pastor in the highest and truest sense of the word can make his leadership most effective for God's use," states Clyde E. Whittington, church historian.

From a small beginning in 1810 with 14 members to the present church plant having some 311 members, a large auditorium, and an annex with numerous Sunday School rooms spans 172 years of Christian programs.

"We should be happy and proud of our past history as a church, not so proud as to sit on past laurels—but rather we should be inspired to strive harder to become more mature Christians day by day, and purpose within our hearts to leave the world a bit better place for our having passed through," Whittington said.

"It is only as we understand our past history that we can hope to attain a measure of understanding of our future."



Will Campbell, left, who lives now at Mt. Juliet, Tenn., is one of the featured speakers, for the East Fork celebration. His father, Lee Campbell, right, is the oldest deacon in East Fork Church.



East Fork Church—as it is today.



East Fork Church—in its original building

Louie Farmer gets Golden Deeds award

By Susana Bellido

Because Louie Farmer "touched the lives of literally tens of thousands of students," his name deserved to be added to the Hattiesburg Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award.

That was the assessment of University of Southern Mississippi President Emeritus William D. McCain, who Aug. 29 joined in honoring the retired 26-year director of the campus' Baptist Student Union.

Henry Coker, chairman of the Book of Golden Deeds awards committee, said Farmer "touched the lives of so many young people as they came through the university that we felt that he was a very worthy candidate for this award."

Bobby Spiers, president of the Exchange Club and Hattiesburg Postmaster, said "the award is given to a long-time citizen who has contributed to the betterment of the community."

"In my understanding, this is the first time the Exchange Club has honored one of its own members with this award, and I can think of no individual more deserving of such an honor," Hattiesburg mayor, G. D. Williamson said in a letter to Farmer.

Current USM President Aubrey Lucas said one of the most significant memories he has of Farmer's years as BSU director is his emphasis on missions.

"Every summer, from that BSU, a record number of students would go out, in almost every case to a foreign mission," he said.

Farmer, a native of Aledo, Texas, obtained a bachelor's degree from

Baylor University and master's in theology and religious education from Southwestern Seminary.

He was a pastor in two Texas churches for two years and BSU director of Clarke College in Newton before he occupied a similar position at USM.

Farmer was BSU director at USM from 1954 to 1980.

Susana Bellido writes for the Hattiesburg American from which this article was taken.

"Beyond 85. . ."

"Beyond 85: Challenge of Tomorrow" is the theme for the 40th annual meeting of the Eastern Baptist Religious Education Association to convene in Atlanta Oct. 28-30.

Ted Ward, nationally recognized futurist, will address the gathering on "Future Trends and Needs." Ward is professor of education at Michigan State University and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Complete program and registration information is available from Hoyt Wilson, Box 9265, Birmingham, AL 35213.

Baptist mission desperately needs physician in Ethiopia

RABEL, Ethiopia (BP)—Missionary personnel working against overwhelming odds in the Ethiopian highlands desperately need a volunteer physician to coordinate Southern Baptist medical relief efforts in the remote, famine-stricken area.

The Foreign Mission Board has searched in vain since May for a physician to spend one or two years coordinating the work at the feeding and health center in Rabel and as many as four other centers projected for the Menz-Gishe and Merhabete Districts.

The physician would supervise nurses at the center, help with difficult medical cases nurses can't handle, and provide advice related to public health, nutrition, famine-related diseases and general sanitation.

Interested persons are urged to

write Joyce De Ridder in health care recruitment at the Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230, or call her at (804) 353-0151.

Specifications suggest training in "public health, lots of good practical general medicine and tropical diseases could be helpful."

"This isn't the place for the specialist who would have all the latest equipment," said Lynn Groce, administrator of the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia. "Medical facilities are primitive, only on the clinic level, with no hospital-type facilities."

Requirements also specify the physician must have the ability to work as a team member, function under limited and very difficult circumstances, be flexible and innovative, and not get frustrated by very limited medical facilities.

High attendance in Church

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Juanita Hight of Louisville gave me a jar of stewed peaches. They've been so good with hot, buttered biscuits that I think I'll pass along her recipe. She said, "Wash, seed, and chop a gallon of peaches. Add 3 cups of sugar and 1 cup of apple cider vinegar. Cook until thick." Now that sounds easy, doesn't it?

Congratulations to Louie Farmer! He has received the Hattiesburg Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award. See article on page 6, Louie retired in 1980 after 26 years as BSU director at University of Southern Mississippi. He and his wife, Etta Lee, live at 100 Westover Drive, Hattiesburg.

September 1, besides being in the middle of a Labor Day weekend, was a sort of multiple holiday in our family. W.D.'s family got together for a reunion. And when I say his family, that means a lot of people, as he had two brothers and six sisters, and all but one are still living. Most of them have children and grandchildren. — and some great-grandchildren. September 1 was the wedding anniversary of Bill and Etta Hodnett of Straight Bayou, near Midnight, where we met for the reunion. (Etta is W.D.'s sister.) It was also the birthday of W.D.'s sister, Helen Merchant, of Louise and Greenville, and of his brother, Speedy McWilliams, of Magee. The oldest person present was Aunt Kate McWilliams of Magee, who will be 94, I believe, in November. (September 1 was the anniversary, too, of my nephew, Tom Brown, and his wife, Susan, of Baton Rouge, but I did not help them celebrate.)

My friend, Joan Peterson, retired from her job as a teacher in Pensacola, Florida, and spends her time helping others. I wrote a column about her a year or two ago, about how she has become a missionary at home. On her street are Cambodians, Vietnamese, Ethiopians, and other nationalities, and she has used every op-

portunity to witness and to minister. She was instrumental in starting First Baptist Church, Pensacola's mission work with Vietnamese. In addition, she spends a great deal of time in a prayer ministry.

Last week I got a letter from her that not only warmed my heart, but made me think, "I could find some creative ways to serve God on rainy days, and to thank him for his blessings that come even in the rain."

She wrote:
"The first day of school and I feel like a 'Mama' with some free time! Between getting shots, school supplies, clothing, etc. and meeting other needs of family members of my new Ethiopian family I have found myself unusually busy! And then several weeks ago a teacher asked me if I could sub for her for the first three days of school. And as I prayed with her about this, I never could feel that the Lord really wanted me to do that, but I was willing if he so directed. He did provide another sub which the principal did approve.

"Through all these circumstances, I have made new prayer partner friends and have grown in other ways myself. Then this morning when the heavy rains came—would have made even Noah gasp!—I knew why the Lord let me be free today to take four children to three different schools in all that flooding! As we prayed in the car for safety and protection, I sensed in the children a relaxing and felt good that I had the privilege of taking them to school instead of seeing them get on the bus. God is so good!

"Then after all that I returned home for a cup of hot tea and heard a pounding on my back door—the next door neighbor in need of having some letters mailed; then, a phone call, 'Are you going to the prayer meeting this morning?' And with my 'yes,' her answer: 'Will you stop for me, please? My car has a flat tire.' So off to prayer meeting for the morning and our leader did not show up so we just let the Holy Spirit lead and it was tremendous! What a blessing!"

Women's deaths tied to smoke

The deaths of 29,000 American women predicted for this year could have been prevented if they had chosen not to smoke cigarettes and to resist "shameful manipulation" by tobacco advertising, claims the president of the American Cancer Society.

Robert J. McKenna, a professor of surgery at the University of Southern California, urged women to "refuse to become victims of manipulative advertising and of the physiological and psychological addiction of cigarette smoking."

In a related report, a new study by the Department of Health and Human Services found that the percentage of young women who smoke increased from 1980 to 1983.

The percent of change in the number of women age 20-24 was +3.4% for the four-year period, compared to -2.2% for men in the same age bracket. The increase for women age 25-34 was +0.7% compared to -5.1% for men.

McKenna noted that "1985 is the first year in history that more women will die of lung cancer than any other form of cancer."

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Elena strikes coast; Baptists move to help

(Continued from page 3)

struction—two were flattened and one was leaning and will have to be torn down. Winds also damaged the roofs of the administration building and student center, causing water damage, and destroyed the college's fishing pier. An estimated \$1.5 million in damages was done to the campus.

All three seamen's centers—two in Jackson County, one in Gulf Coast Association—were destroyed. And about a dozen churches suffered serious damages—mostly due to roofs being peeled away by high winds.

Jackson Avenue Church lost the edge of its roof and there was water damage in the pastor's study. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, had roof damage to the educational building and a tree smashed its playground. Hurricane Frederic in 1979 knocked Calvary's steeple off. This time the steeple was already down for repairs.

The Indian Church had light roof damage, and the Jackson County associational office was moving there temporarily while its building was being repaired.

Ingalls Avenue Church lost its steeple, and ceiling tile was off the edge of the sanctuary. Midway, Moss Point, lost a roof. Christ Temple, Moss Point, lost the breezeway which flipped up onto its roof. And Escatawpa Church lost the roof off its educational building and the BTN satellite uplink was bent to the ground.

Besides losing the back wall of the sanctuary, Griffin Street Church lost the roof from its sanctuary and educational building and glass from the front of the church.

First Church, Gautier, suffered almost identical damage as from Hurricane Frederic. The forward portion of the roof itself was pulled off and laid beside the church. This time, though, a new gym lost its roof and the floor had large ripples in it from water damage. Said Billy Williams, pastor, "We're going to have to talk with the architect about making sure this doesn't happen again." One wag noted that the first thing a church should do in this situation is to move 150 miles north.

And in Gulf Coast Association, besides Carey's coastal campus and Gulfshore, the primary damage known at press time was to Emmanuel Church, Biloxi, which lost a slant roof which had been erected over a flat roof, severe water damage, and structural damage—a crack in the sanctuary wall. Volunteers from Keesler Air Force Base helped clean up the roofing in the churchyard. A Korean Mission meets in the church which is without a pastor.

Former Jackson County director of missions, Zeno Wells, was reported to have a damaged home and Bobby Wedgeworth, pastor of Fairview Church, Saucier, had trees through

both ends of his home. Wedgeworth said the house was to have been paid for in November. Paul Aultman, pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs, also had a tree on his house.

Further reports of damages are expected during the week and the Bap-

tist Record will offer them in a future issue. Those wishing to participate in cleanup efforts are asked to contact Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department, Jackson 968-3800, for details on what is needed to be done.

Video conferences set for three locations

"Video Communication and the Local Church" will be the topic for three area conferences to be held across Mississippi beginning Sept. 30.

The three conferences will be Sept. 30—First Church, Hattiesburg, 7-8:45 p.m. Oct. 1—Baptist Building, Jackson, 10 a.m.-Noon; and Calvary Church, Tupelo, 7-8:45 p.m.

The conferences are sponsored by the Department of Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Farrell Blankenship, director.

Leading the conferences will be Joe Denney, director of the Telecommunications Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Denney has been in on the planning

and follow through of BTN since its inception.

Another conference leader is Chip Turner, director of media services with the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He is the author of a book to be released in January, 1986 by Broadman Press titled "The Church Video Answerbook" (a non-technical guide for ministers and laypersons). In addition Turner serves as state director of ACTS in Louisiana and has produced several programs for use by local Louisiana ACTS channels.

Pastors, directors of missions, church staff, church media library workers, television committee members and other key church leaders are especially invited.

M. T. McGregor dies

(Continued from page 3)

Worth when he was named as director of missions for Hope Association. While in Arkansas, he organized several new churches, and he and his wife were instrumental in getting a number of preachers started in their careers.

M. T. and Flora McGregor celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Fresno, Calif., while their son was editor of the California Baptist.

Survivors other than his son are one sister, Mrs. Maude Rhoads of Alvin, Tex.; three grandchildren, Alice McGregor Tyrone of Starkville, and Bobby and Wayne McGregor of the Dallas area in Texas; and six great-grandchildren, April, Jason, and Angela McGregor, and Aron, Douglas, and Tiffany Tyrone.

Music at the memorial service on Monday included a violin solo, "How Great Thou Art," played by Mrs. Ed Bearden; a vocal solo, "Eventide," sung by Mrs. Frank Sutterfield, accompanied by Mrs. Bob Laster on the piano; and the congregational hymn, "Because He Lives," led by the Raymond minister of music, Bob Shuttleworth.

Memorial gifts were to go to the organ fund of Raymond Church.

Earl Kelly quoted the 23rd

Psalm and other scripture verses on shepherds. Lanny Wilbourn, Don McGregor's pastor, led in prayer.

Sam Mason said that he had learned much about M. T. McGregor through hearing the prayers that he prayed, as well as through his actions. He found out about his love for God, his love for people, his love for his family, his love for his church, his love for his country.

"He believed in God's call to him," Mason said. "He took God seriously, but never took himself too seriously."

He quoted one of McGregor's favorite sayings: "Every morning lay your arms upon the windowsill of heaven and gaze awhile upon the face of God; then turn strong to meet the day."

McGregor once wrote, "The reward at the end is not always in dollars and cents (there may not be much of that) but . . . in a life of service to one's fellow-man in the name of the Christ whom we love and serve, and finally to be able to say with Paul, ' . . . in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.' "

ch Training September 29

Crowders claim rights violated at convention

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder of Birmingham, Ala., have notified the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee they intend to file a lawsuit if the Executive Committee does not correct what they claim are "violations of the bylaws" of the SBC.

Emmet J. Bondurant of the Atlanta lawfirm of Bondurant, Stephenson & Smith, sent a letter Sept. 5 to James P. Guenther, attorney for the SBC, saying the lawfirm has been "retained to represent . . . (the Crowders) in seeking to correct violations of the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention which occurred on June 12 and 13, 1985."

Bondurant says that Crowders were messengers from Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham, and adds: "It is their position that Dr. Charles F. Stanley (convention president) violated the provisions of the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the rights of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford as registered messengers to

the Dallas convention, by ruling out-of-order a motion from the floor of the Convention to amend the report of the Committee on Committees, and by refusing to allow the motion to be voted upon by the convention delegates, including Mr. and Mrs. Crowder, who were at the convention."

According to Bondurant, the action stems from the presentation of the 1985 Committee on Committees, nominating the 1986 Committee on Boards. The Committee on Boards nominates trustees to govern the national agencies of the SBC.

The letter claims Stanley did not allow amendments to the committee report, "ignored the vote of the convention . . . refused to entertain points of order . . . or to allow an appeal of his ruling."

Bondurant says Stanley's action "in refusing to allow . . . (the) motion to amend the report of the Committee on Committees was a clear violation of Sections 11, 16, 32 and 35 of the bylaws. . . ."

In his letter, Bondurant says the Crowders believe "that these violations . . . should be remedied quietly and voluntarily by the officers and the Executive Committee."

Bondurant cited Section 20 of the bylaws, which authorizes the Executive Committee "to act for the convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for."

Executive Committee President Bennett told Baptist Press he has taken a poll of the officers of the committee, and with their authorization, will "decline the invitation to meet with the officers, but instead will schedule a presentation by Bondurant and the Crowders the Monday night session of the Executive Committee."

"They will have the opportunity to present their views for discussion," he said.

Bennett added plans "are being considered to open discussion to all who are present, observers as well as Executive Committee members" following Bondurant's presentation.

After the discussion, Bennett said, the Executive Committee will be adjourned, and a separate meeting between the Executive Committee and Guenther will be conducted. The meeting will be a "client-attorney conference" and will be closed to all but members and staff.

Guenther told Baptist Press he opposes closed meetings in Baptist life, but feels "in this case it is my duty to assess the situation in an attorney-client setting."

The letter says the Crowders could sue in a Georgia state court since the SBC is a nonprofit Georgia corporation and Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, is a resident of Georgia. He adds the suit also could be filed in federal district court.

Bondurant also writes: "An action . . . for a declaratory judgment and an injunction to enforce the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention does not involve church ritual or doctrine . . . but is in the nature of an action to prevent the illegal exercise by the Committee on Boards of power over the property of the convention."

Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.



Salem team goes to Amarillo

The Salem Baptist Church, Collins, sent a mission team to Amarillo, Texas, July 18-27. The team worked with the Village Park Baptist Church under the direction of the pastor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Parker. The team worked in four Backyard Bible Clubs for children and one Backyard Bible Club for all young people every day. The Salem team and several from Village Park Church reached out to 127 children and young people in that community. Twenty-eight persons trusted Jesus for salvation. The young people from Salem sang in several musical concerts on the way to Texas and also in Amarillo.

The members of Salem's mission team are: (from left to right) Barry Worrell; Jane Worrell; Manford Price; Christine Price; Angie Barr; Susan Mathis; Oliver Hitt; Scott Ross; Henry Martin Rogers; Mattie Lou Rogers; Laurene McLemore with Clare Worrell; James McLemore, pastor; and David Gibson. (Not in the picture were Gary and Denese Gibson and Angel Gibson.)

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Sept. 15 Scripture Distribution/Prospect Discovery and High Attendance Day (SS Emphasis)
- Sept. 16 New Church Member Orientation Workshop
FBC, Gulfport; 9:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m. (CT)
- Sept. 16-20 Basic Certification Seminar for Church Secretaries;
Baptist Building; 8 a.m., 16th-Noon, 20th (CAPM)
- Sept. 17 New Church Member Orientation Workshop; FBC,
Jackson; 9:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m. (CT)
- Sept. 20-21 GA Mother/Daughter Weekend, Camp Garaywa,
4 p.m., 20th-1 p.m., 21st (WMU)



Greenwood GA interviews missionary

Noelle Hicks, center, age 9, travelled to Jackson recently to interview Stanley Stamps, missionary to Honduras who is now on furlough. Noelle is a member of Girls in Action at First Church, Greenwood. With the help of her GA leader, Mrs. Waters M. Hicks, left, she arranged to meet Stamps, right, at the Baptist Building. Noelle is now in fourth grade, but the interview was an assignment she needed to complete Book 3 of the GA Missions Adventures series. The missionary not only answered her carefully prepared questions, but also had brought dolls and other curios from Honduras to show her. Stamps said he was glad to grant an interview to Noelle, and that perhaps other GAs would be interested in doing a similar project, interviewing him or other furloughing missionaries. Dierdre Hicks, sixth grade GA, Noelle's sister, is seated in the background.

Missionaries escape blast in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Anne Nicholas bought groceries in a Beirut supermarket just one day before it was leveled by a car bomb Aug. 17.

Triggered by an estimated 550 pounds of explosives inside a parked sedan, the blast blew up the supermarket, set ablaze about 50 parked cars, and hurled five bodies into the Mediterranean Sea some 300 yards away. More than 50 people died and 100 were wounded.

Many of the 13 Southern Baptist missionaries now on the field in east

Beirut had shopped at the supermarket often.

The bombing was one of the worst yet in east Beirut, which has remained comparatively orderly during the bombings, kidnappings, sniper fire and street battles that have long wracked west Beirut. It was one incident in what has become known as the "war of the car bombs" between Christian and Muslim factions in the city.

During the most intense fighting in mid- and late August several Southern Baptist missionaries were forced to

spend time in places of shelter, such as the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. They had resumed normal activities by the end of the month.

The Nicholases, of Texas, were appointed missionaries in 1956. Until 1978 they worked in Gaza. He is dean and professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary. She works with the Arab Baptist Publications Center.

Never argue at the dinner table, for the one who is not hungry always gets the best of the argument. — Whately

Make Retirement Fit Your Lifestyle

ASBURY COVE

Plan to make retirement fit your personal lifestyle at Asbury Cove near Ross Barnett Reservoir.

Asbury Cove will be a retirement community of one and two-bedroom apartments, financed by private contributions and a Refundable Life Use Fee. Most apartments will be for independent living, with a few available for residents requiring physical assistance.

Sponsored by United Methodist Senior Services of Mississippi, Inc., Asbury Cove is being planned to meet the lifestyles of independent, retired, senior citizens. Asbury Cove will be located on Fannin Road near the reservoir.

If your plans include retirement in the foreseeable future, call or write today for details on Asbury Cove.

A Unique Retirement Option Secure, Independent Retirement Living

United Methodist Senior Services of Mississippi, Inc.
Asbury Cove, P.O. Box 8641, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 355-1226



What are you planting?

By Chuck Moody
First Corinthians 3:5-9

When we lived in Virginia, my wife and I bought a small piece of land. The first thing we did was set out five fruit trees. Although we did not know how long we would live there, we were excited about those trees. I pruned, fertilized, and sprayed those trees; and we and some of our friends enjoyed the fruit for several years. Now, since we have moved, others are enjoying the apples and peaches.



Moody

My interest in fruit trees was kindled by a former pastor of our church in Virginia. Some 30 years earlier, he had set out a red delicious apple tree in the back yard of our parsonage. We enjoyed the fruit of the tree he had

planted. I learned to prune and spray. A new interest was born. The tree he planted provided apples for us to eat, but it also led me to become a planter of fruit trees myself.

If you haven't developed an interest in planting fruit trees, read this wonderful story. An elderly man, approximately 85 years of age, was busy one day planting peach trees in his yard. A young man walked by and stopped to see what the old man was doing. He asked, "What are you doing on your hands and knees?" The man replied, "I'm planting peach trees." "Why," said the stranger, "you won't live long enough to eat peaches from those trees." The old man stood erect and responded with the wisdom of the sage. "Young man," he said, "all my life I've eaten delicious peaches from trees that other people planted. When I die I want people to enjoy peaches

from trees that I planted."

As enjoyable as it is to plant and tend fruit trees, the greatest thing we can do is invest in the lives of people in the name of our Lord. We can sow seeds of kindness. We can love the children. We can plant the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of others. We can be Andrews and lead others to Jesus Christ.

In this manner, others will be able to enjoy the fruit of God's love, and they themselves will be able to plant God's love in others. Kurt Kaiser expressed it clearly:

"That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it. You spread His love to ev'ry-one; you want to pass it on."

What are you planting?

Chuck Moody is pastor of First Church, Morton.



Dennis Johnsey, pastor, First, Pascagoula, and Dudley Isom looks over Isom's new book.

Letters to the Editor

100 for Tillatoba

Editor:

The Tillatoba Baptist Church, Yalobusha County, Mississippi, will be celebrating its 100th birthday with an all day program Oct. 6, 1985.

We are making an effort to get in touch with every person who has been a member of the church in former years and taking this method to get names and addresses of same so they can be sent an invitation for the event.

If you or members of your family have been connected with this church in any way or you know someone who has been, please send pertinent information to Mrs. Ruth Melton, Rt. 1, Box 23, Tillatoba, MS 38961.

Fred M. Lawrence, pastor
Tillatoba Baptist Church
Tillatoba

Christian rock

Editor:

I have just reread the letter in the Aug. 22 Record from a youth director who condemned "rock music", particularly the Christian variety, stating that the "driving beat... leads to rebellion," that rock musicians "subliminally transmit messages about Satan," and that Christian young people rebel against "all positions of authority while singing or listening to this 'rock gospel.'" I have also just reread Psalm 39:1-3. Now I feel moved to speak.

Is there a particular form of musical expression which is more acceptable to God than others? Must "gospel music" be restricted to quartets who bellow lyrics about the River Jordan, Gloryland, and the golden gates, and who sport such catchy handles as the Gospelaires or the Singing Flambo's? I think not. If this style appeals to you, then praise the Lord in whatever way you feel led. If, as this youth director suggests, a "driving beat" leads to rebellion, one would almost certainly be driven ir-

resistably into unclean thoughts by this genre, as the old-fashioned gospel music has an unmistakably rhythm. Indeed, this whole argument makes the thinking observer wonder just which musical time signatures are spiritually acceptable. BUNK!

If the Holy Spirit chooses a "rock music" medium to reach the lost for Christ, WHO ARE WE to criticize, much less condemn? I am a born-again Christian, a Sunday School teacher, and a rock music fan who can enjoy Honeytree, Pat Terry, and Phil Keagy with the same enthusiasm as I enjoy James Taylor, Dan Fogelberg, and R.E.O. Speedwagon. I do not find myself "driven to rebellion" as a result of my personal musical tastes; nor do I see myself as any less of a Christian for it. I praise a God who is so great that everyone (regardless of musical tastes) can have a personal relationship with him through Jesus, his Son, who died for us all. Praise THE ROCK of Ages!

Robert A. Hayden
Brandon

Christian rock

Editor:

I'm writing in response to the article on Christian rock written by the young minister from Heidelberg, Ms. I want to first say that this letter is not written in anger, rather it is written in hopes that a tragic misconception may be brought to the light.

In John 1:3 we see the words, "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (KJV) God created all things! Satan is not a creator! Satan did not create music in any form, be it classical, country, rock, etc. Satan cannot create, but he does pervert things that God has created. Classical music as well as country music has influenced many to follow a path of immorality and rock music is no exception.

On the other hand, classical music as well as country music has been used of God to reach many for the sake

of Christ. Rock music is no exception. Classical music is found in many of our cantatas and hymns. The country music style is used by many Southern Gospel groups. One of my closest friends in the ministry was brought to the Lord through a Christian rock street concert.

Music is, I agree, a great means of influence in a person's life. Music can be used of Satan or God, it depends on the one presenting the music. Young people were created by God with a zest and zeal for an exciting, purposeful life. The rock beat does bring excitement. Are we going to stand by and allow Satan to use this tool to excite youth for his purpose, or will we allow those Christians who have been given the gift of playing rock music to use that gift to excite and motivate young people to live for Jesus Christ?

I thank God for the Christian men and women who have realized that rock music is a language that young people understand and who have withstood the ridicule and persecution in order to reach out to youth in that way.

As far as the rebellious "nature" of the music, I think God is looking for a people with a rebellious determination to live for him unashamedly,

regardless of what others say or think. Let us be careful in limiting God as to what he can use and can't use in reaching a lost and dying world.

Larry McEwen,
music evangelist
McComb

Christian rock

Editor:

As to the recent letters of Mr. Wade and Mr. Abel opposing contemporary Christian music, I feel that their attention is focused on the music itself and not what the words are saying. Even though they think it's wrong, that's their opinion. I know that many young people have come to know Jesus Christ through this music. The Bible says in Psalm 33 to praise the Lord with song and loud noise. Now this tells me that the Lord doesn't care what the music sounds like, but what the words are saying about him and the great works he has done. So we should open ourselves not only to the music but to the words also.

Stacy Breedlove
Magnolia Baptist Church
Laurel

Two Southwesterners called to historic church in Rio

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—One recent doctoral graduate and a current doctoral student have been called to ministry positions at the historic First Baptist Church of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Fausto Vasconcelos, a 35-year-old Brazilian and current doctor of philosophy student, in August will become the fourth pastor of the 101-year-old church which has 2,800 members.

Isadora Lessa de Paula, also Brazilian and a summer doctor of musical arts graduate, will become

minister of music at the church as well as director of Niteroi Seminary's school of music in Rio de Janeiro.

William Bagby, Southern Baptists' first missionary to Brazil, organized the church Aug. 24, 1884, and was its pastor for 16 years.

From 1900 to 1933, Francisco F. Soren was pastor. He was also the first president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

His son, John, succeeded him. The younger Soren is a former Baptist World Alliance president.

Oral surgeon writes poetry in retirement

Dudley Isom, who practiced oral surgery for 36 years, now spends his retirement with his wife, Inez, in their Pascagoula home writing poetry.

He has dedicated two of his published works of biblical poetry, Bible Events and Random Thoughts, to the building fund of his church, First Church, Pascagoula.

"I am not what one would call a real or finished poet," said Isom. "Some of my writings are unpoetical, unmetrical, and lacking in rhythm. However, I comply with the one good essential, that of sincerity."

"Putting the meaning of a story in verse led me to begin writing poetry based upon occurring events in the Bible. Hence the title of my two books."

Isom, a Sunday School teacher at First, Pascagoula, formerly wrote materials for the Baptist Brotherhood in Shreveport, La.

Before retiring to Pascagoula, he served as president of the Louisiana Dental Association. He organized and was president of the Arkansas-Louisiana-Texas Dental Congress. He was professor of oral surgery at Louisiana State University.

The little boy ran to his mother holding a dry pressed leaf which was evidently a relic of days long ago. "I found it in the big Bible, Mother," he cried excitedly. "Do you suppose it belonged to Eve?"

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Names in the News



Winders has moved to Baton Rouge, La., to become pastor of Cedarcrest Church. Winders and his wife, Diane, were engaged in the ministry of full time evangelism for 14½ years, based in Tupelo. Their new address is 2020 Cedarcrest Avenue, Baton Rouge, La. 70816.

Mark Strum was ordained to the gospel ministry at North Columbia Church, Marion Association. Strum is serving as pastor of Spring Cottage, Marion Association.



Ross was ordained to the gospel ministry, Aug. 18, by First, Ridgeland. He is available for bi-vocational pastorate, supply or revivals. Ross may be contacted at the following numbers, (601) 856-6771, home, or 856-6139, church. Ed Griffin is pastor.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Michael Stephen Day, active in youth work in Tennessee churches since 1973, has been named editor of "Probe" magazine, published by the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., for boys in grades 7-12, effective Sept. 1.

ATLANTA (BP) — Sherri Anthony Brown, editorial assistant in the SBC Home Mission Board's evangelism section for the past four years, has been promoted to assistant features editor in the board's editorial department.



Dugan was licensed to preach the gospel by Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove. He is currently enrolled at Clarke College and is available for pulpit supply. His address is 203 College Street, Newton, MS 39345. Phone 683-2061.

John C. Varghese, an evangelist from India, spoke at the noonday prayer luncheon at Parkway Church, Jackson, on Sept. 2. He is director of New Life Ministries in Northeast India.



Lizana receives deed

On March 27, 1983, Lizana Mission was constituted as a church. Since moving from a mission to church, the church has experienced 135 additions and 48 of those by baptism. The church recently received the warranty deed from the Gulf Coast Association. Shown above is pastor, Gerald H. Walker, receiving deed from trustees and chairman of deacons. The church has recently elected a building and planning committee. From left are Janice Bowen, Melvin Lizana, Lamar Bond, Gerald H. Walker, pastor; and Earl Cuevas, chairman of deacons.

Staff Changes



Thomas assumed the pastorate of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, Aug. 25. Thomas went to Alta Woods from First Church, Cocoa, Fla. He is a native of Decatur, Ga., and a graduate of Southern Baptist Seminary where he earned a doctor of philosophy degree in Church History.

He served as chaplain for the Brevard, Fla. Chapter Police Benevolence Association from 1981-85. He has also been both program chairman and president of the Central Brevard Ministerial Association.

Publications by Thomas include a number of book reviews for Baptist History and Heritage and articles for Baptist Young Adults, the Quarterly Review, the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, and Pupil Digest.

Thomas is married to the former Eloise Perry of Decatur, Ga. They have four children, Elizabeth, Wesley, Graham, and Wimberly.



Rogers began Sept. 1 as pastor of Priceville Church, Tupelo. He and his wife, Joyce, already live in Tupelo, but plan to move to the pastorium soon.

The church is meeting in temporary facilities due to the recent loss of the building by fire. Plans are to rebuild as soon as possible.

Danny Moss began his new ministry Sept. 1 at Sand Ridge Church, Scott County. He was pastor of Springfield Church, Leake County, for the past 8½ years.

Jimmy Chapman has resigned as minister of music at Center Hill Church, Pontotoc County, to go to Blue Springs Church, Union County.

Joe Epting has resigned the pastorate of Furrs Church, Pontotoc County, and has accepted the pastorate of Banner Church.

Scott W. Hamric was called by Beech Grove, Pattison, as pastor, Aug. 25. He and his wife, Wanda, students at Mississippi College, and son, Greg, reside in Clinton.

Wyatt Harvey has accepted a call to pastor Mt. Pisgah Church, Choctaw Association. Mt. Pisgah Church ordained him to the gospel ministry. He will be a senior at Mississippi College on Clarke Campus this year.

Terry Williams has accepted the call to serve Mantee Church, Mantee as pastor. Williams comes from Smith Association.

Douglass Christy, a student at Mid America Seminary, Memphis, is the new pastor at Cross Roads, Webster Association. Christy and family have moved on the field.

Jack Inman has accepted the call to serve West Shady Grove, Webster Association as pastor. Inman served the Woodland Church ten years before coming to West Shady Grove.

Paige Cothran is now serving as pastor of French Camp Church, Choctaw Association. He comes from Broadway Church, Memphis, where he has been serving as director and counselor of family enrichment ministries.

David Waits is serving Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw Association as pastor. Waits is a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Wilton Bennett is new pastor of Graceland Church, Jackson County. He moved from Rolling Fork Church, Clarke County.

Mike Tilley has been called by First Church, Pascagoula, as minister of outreach. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, and moved from Fairhope, Ala.

Tyrone Nail has been called as pastor of Enon (Clay).

J. E. Sims has resigned as minister of music at Calvary (Lowndes) to assume a similar position at Immanuel, Columbus.

Interested in Baptist Nursing Fellowship?

Baptist Nursing Fellowship is a "sister organization" of Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship; the national organization has state chapters. As a liaison, Woman's Missionary Union of Mississippi would like to help initiate a chapter in Mississippi, according to Ashley McCaleb, WMU consultant.

Some objectives of the fellowship are to provide fellowship among Christian nurses and to present opportunities for Christian nurses to witness and minister through short-term home and/or foreign missions projects.

Cora Joyce Davis, missionary, is contact person for the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship. She and her husband, Ralph, are residing at 108 South 17th Avenue, Hattiesburg 39401, while on furlough from Ghana.

Anyone interested in receiving further information about Baptist Nursing Fellowship, or interested in becoming members of a Mississippi chapter, may contact Mrs. Davis by telephone at 582-5729, or Mrs. Ashley McCaleb in the state WMU office at 968-3800.

Revival Dates

Parkway (Jackson): Sept. 22-27; 7 p.m. each night; Paul Brown, Dean of Hannibal LaGrange College, Hannibal, Missouri, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music evangelist, Lucedale, music; Albert W. Wilkerson, pastor.

Antioch, Highway 45 North, Columbus: Sept. 15-18; regular Sunday services; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, First, Louisville, evangelist; Mike Woodson, Siloam, Clay County, music; Jimmy Harrington, pastor.

First, Morton: homecoming, Sept. 15; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 10:45 a.m.; 12:15 p.m., dinner on the ground at Family Life Center; Sept. 15-19, revival, evening services, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 a.m.; Malcolm Tolbert, professor of Greek and New Testament, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; evangelist; Lee Gordon, interim minister of music, Robinson St. Church, Jackson, music; Charles Moody, pastor.

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Missionary News

Lenora Salley, journeyman to Burkina Faso, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an elementary and secondary teacher for missionary children (address: BP 580, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso). She is a native of Meridian. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1985, she was graduated from Mississippi State University.

Fanny Starns, missionary to Thailand, was recently awarded a 30-year missionary service pin at the annual meeting of the Thailand Baptist Mission. She was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., and lived in several communities, graduating from high school in Holden, La. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1955, she may be addressed at P. O. Box 832, Bangkok, Thailand 10501.

Payton and Helen Myers, missionaries to Nigeria, have returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 93, Kaduna, Nigeria). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Hazlehurst and grew up in Jackson. She is the former Helen Green of Prentiss.

William and Mirle Matheny, missionaries to Ecuador, have arrived on the field following reappointment (address: Casilla 4725-A, Quito, Ecuador). He is a native of Sterling, Ill., and she is the former Mirle Mathews of Vicksburg, Miss. They were reappointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

Douglas and Paula Simrell, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 520 Magazine St., Tupelo, MS 38801).

RICHMOND, Va.—The Foreign Mission Board has transferred David and Barbara Wyman, Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico, to Canada. Under the direction of the newly formed Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, The Wymans will work with churches in the area of religious education. They join Southern Baptist missionaries James and Georgie Teel, who were assigned to Canada in 1984. The Wymans, natives of New Mexico, hope to move to Canada this fall.

Paul and Eveline Miller, missionaries to Nigeria, have returned to the field (address: Box 30, Ogbomoso, Nigeria).

Harold and Joyce Watson, missionaries to the Philippines, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 94, Davao City, Philippines). He is a native of Brooklyn, Miss.

Robert and Ruby Williams, missionaries to the Niger Republic, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 13415 Dutch Myrtle, San Antonio, Texas 78232). She is the former Ruby Williamson of Columbia, Miss.

James and Linda Hudson, missionaries to Korea, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 1005 Spencer Ave., Monroe, La. 71201). He was born in Jackson, Miss.

Edd and Freda Trott, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Dalewood Shores, Rt. 1, Box 149, Lauderdale, Miss. 39335). He was born in Texas. The former Freda Porter, she was born in Meridian.



Acteens and GAs of Mantee Church, Mantee, recently held recognition service. The theme of the service was "His Way—MINE." Pictured, back row, left to right, are Anita Harrington, Jennifer Stevens, Beth Womack, Peggy Brand, Genifer Wright, Anne Miller, Buffy Jennings, Sonya Forrester, Sherry Parker, Robyn Beasley, and Melissa Neal. Middle row (left to right) are Emily Harrington, Alesha Ellison, Carey Cliett, Laura Stone, Rebecca Barnett, Jennifer Brand, Paige Harrington, Jada Neal, Angel Parker, and Beverly Sanford. Front row, left to right, Cole

Norman, Renee King, Amber Forrester, Danna Stone, Randee Barrett, Sebrina King, Hailey Stevens, Amber Cliett, Richard Sullivan, James Lee Carpenter, William Carpenter, Ed Bart Carpenter, Bradley Chandler, Sean Griffin, Landon Griffin, and Morgan Clark. RAs participating, pictured, back row, left to right are Chris Chandler, Matt Hardin, Todd Gullette, Bart Neal, Trent Johnson, Brian Clark, and Michael Green. Front row, left to right, Ed Bart Carpenter, Landon Clark, Lee Womack, Jeff Beasley, and Scott Griffin. Ann Stone, director. Terry Williams, pastor.

Just for the Record



First Church, Wiggins, recently honored Mrs. Suellen Morrison on her tenth anniversary as minister of music. The morning worship service included a testimonial of Mrs. Morrison's ministry, a summary of the music ministry's progress since 1975, and a sermon focusing of the power of music in the worship of God's people. At the close of the service, Mrs. Morrison was presented an inscribed silver Revere bowl, a book of letters from the sanctuary choir and the handbell choir members, and a monetary expression of appreciation. Pictured from left are Mrs. Morrison; Ernest Sadler, pastor; Glenn Breland, chairman of deacons; Richard Cain, sanctuary choir president; and Mrs. Mike Cain, who helped to coordinate the anniversary celebration.



Members of Black Jack Church, (Yazoo) financial and building committees celebrated ground breaking, Sunday, July 21, of a new church addition. They include (front row, left) Webb Lantley, Mrs. Sam Dixon, Mrs. Sam Fisher, Mrs. Ivey Dixon, Charles Nichols, Warren King, Mrs. Elkin Hearst and Mrs. Britt Smith; (back row, left) Kenneth Anderson, pastor; Marvin Pepper and Roger Richardson, contractors, Jack Chester and Donnie Pepper. This is the first major addition to the church since its original construction in 1925. The new addition will include a fellowship hall, pastor's study, library, kitchen and several classrooms.

Juniper Grove honors pastor

Juniper Grove Church (Pearl River Association) gave a pounding and ice cream supper Sunday evening, Sept. 1, for its new pastor, David Raddin. The Raddins and their son, Charlie, moved from Brandon to Juniper Grove in June. He succeeded Kenneth Rhodes, who resigned as pastor after 10 years and eight months there.

Rhodes became director of missions for Pearl River Association. Bill Kirkpatrick, BSU director at Pearl

River Junior College, was interim pastor at Juniper Grove from December, 1984 until June 1, 1985.

Stanley Stamps, missionary to Honduras, was special speaker for the evening service, Sept. 1.

The church has scheduled a revival, to begin Nov. 10, Roy Raddin, director of missions, Washington Association, and father of David Raddin, will be the evangelist.

Centennial

Moselle Memorial Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Oct. 6. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. All former pastors have been invited.

Griffith Memorial to break ground

Griffith Memorial Church will celebrate the first anniversary of its satellite location with a ground breaking service on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 2 p.m. The satellite is located at 5275 Terry Road, Jackson, on the corner of Terry Road and Sycamore Drive.

The ground breaking signals the beginning of a four-phase building program, the first phase of which is a multi-purpose facility with a worship capacity of 160, scheduled for completion in March 1986.

The congregation now worships at 5275 Terry Road in a mobile chapel on loan from the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association and will be returned upon the completion of Phase I.

J. W. Brister, executive director of the association, will be a featured speaker, along with the pastor, Gary Knapp.

Revival Dates

First, Lexington: Sept. 15-20; Sun. 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon meal service and 7 p.m. service; evangelist, Billy Graham; music evangelist, Billy Hilburn; Michael O'Brien, pastor.

Sulphur Springs (Newton): Sept. 15-20; Hugh Martin of Philadelphia, preaching; Marion Felton of Newton, leading music; Randall Creel, pastor.

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SCRAPBOOK

Nostalgia

Back South, in Mississippi,
Ere the sun had pinked the sky,
We could hear the hooves' smart
clipping;
Cotton wagons rattling by.

Each one vying with his neighbor,
First to reach the cotton gin—
Lint from seed soon separated—
And they had no warehouse then!

Back they came to load another,
Precious cargo wrapped and bound—
Back where dotted bent forms
hovered
Building white mounds on the ground.

Now the highways, lint bewhiskered
From the speeding, cushioned
wheels—
Harvest of unfeeling fingers;
Wading robots in the fields.

Poignant still, like sounds of music,
To the rural Southern-born,
Memories of the rhythmic hoof-beats
Early on an autumn morn.
—Valerie Boyd Howell
Ripley

Blessing

Whatever happened to the blessing,
Of giving thanks to God,
Acknowledging him as provider,
Or prayer before we nod?
He is our creator,
He created us from dust,
And if we are truly grateful,
The blessing is a must.

—Mark Strum
Columbia

I heard the Master

"Be still and know that I am God"
I heard the Master say
I felt his touch and then I saw
A rose along the way.

"He leadeth me beside still waters"
I lay in pastures green
While reaching upward for a star
Listening to a voice serene.

I heard him calling, "Peace, be still"
Speaking to a raging sea
The wind and waves obeyed his voice
The tempest silenced suddenly.

I heard him whisper, "Come to me
and I will give you rest"
I placed the rose at Jesus' feet
Then peacefully I slept.
—Alma Lee Isbell
Amory

When . . .

When I am troubled, Your Spirit
gives me ease.
When I cry, You dry my tears
with understanding.
When I need guidance, Your wisdom
shows me the way.
When I am anxious, Your promise
gives me patience.
When I become bitter, You replace
it with Your love.
When I am happy, it is of
Your blessings.
When I am tempted, Your strength
pulls me through.
When I am proud, Your greatness
makes me humble,
When Satan makes me doubt, Your
Word gives me faith.
When I sin, Your precious blood
covers it up.
Thank You, Lord!
—Stephen Bonner Williams

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Jeremiah's ministry after Jerusalem's fall

By J. Gerald Harris

Jeremiah 42:7-11; 43:2-4, 8-11a

After Jerusalem's fall many of the captives were taken to Ramah. It was in this place that Jeremiah was given the choice of going to Babylon with the captives or remaining in Judah with the poor, despised remnant that had been left behind. Jeremiah chose to remain in Judah, hoping to minister to the broken and bleeding souls there.

Nebuchadnezzar established Gedaliah as the governor over the cities of Judah. In a violent raid, Gedaliah was assassinated and many others were slain with him. Johanan led a force to avenge the death of Gedaliah. After this valiant feat, Johanan, filled with fear, thought he would seek refuge in Egypt. His first impression was to take the entire remnant of Jews with him.

In the process of trying to make a decision, Johanan approached Jeremiah and requested prayer for guidance (42:2-3). Johanan said, "Jeremiah, you pray and get a word from the Lord and we will obey his command."

I. The promise of Jehovah (42:7-11)—Jeremiah prayed and ten days later the "word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah" (v. 7). Johanan was in a dilemma and perplexed about having to wait ten days for a reply from heaven. We must remember that God's delays are not God's denials.

When Jesus was asked to rescue an embarrassed host from a shortage of refreshments at a wedding feast his response was not immediate (Jn. 2:4). When Jesus was beckoned to Bethany, to the sickbed of Lazarus, he did not respond with haste (Jn. 11:6). Sometimes the Lord waits that he may be gracious (Is. 30:18).

God's response to Jeremiah's prayer was: "If you will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull you down, and I will plant you, and not pluck you up..." (v. 10). God promised deliverance and prosperity to the remnant in Judah if they would but remain in the land.

Johanan thought there would be more security in Egypt under the pavilions of Pharaoh than in Judah under the providence of God. In the Bible "refuge in Egypt" is equated with trusting in the flesh (II Kings 18:21). But we know "the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own." God wanted to secure the dependence of the remnant in Judah and pave their destiny with his goodness. Abiding in the land was the key to claiming God's promise.

II. The price of Johanan (43:2-4)—Although Johanan and the leaders of the remnant had promised to obey the word of the Lord, they refused to follow his counsel issued through the prophet Jeremiah. These men were so determined to go to Egypt they would let nothing hinder them. That which was said of the builders of the tower of Babel could be said of Johanan and his colleagues: "... And this they began to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6).

The text specifies that pride was at the root of their rebellion. They were so intent upon controlling their own destiny they could not submit to any other will, not even the will of God. They refused to believe that Jeremiah had received his message from God. They declared that he had mov-

ed at the impulse of Baruch's pleasure and not God's prompting. Therefore, the leaders of the remnant gathered the people together, including Jeremiah and Baruch, and set out for Egypt in direct opposition to the will of God.

III. The prophecy of Jeremiah (43:8-11a)—In Egypt Jeremiah continues to warn the exiles of God's coming judgment. He graphically portrays the events which are about to transpire. As instructed by God, he takes "great stones" and buries them under the pavement at the entrance of Pharaoh's house.

Having attracted the attention of the men of Judah with this object lesson, Jeremiah declares his prophecy. In plaintive tones he says, "Nebuchadnezzar will come to Egypt and conquer this land and his throne will be established upon the site of the stones which I have buried." Is it not true that man proposes and God disposes? God establishes kingdoms and he eliminates kingdoms. All earthly power rests ultimately upon divine sanction (Dan. 2:21).

There is no escaping the judgment of God. There is no limit beyond which the eye of God cannot see. There is no realm beyond which the judgment of God cannot reach. There is no barrier beyond which the wrath of God cannot penetrate. For some "the goodness of God leadeth... to repentance" (Rom. 2:4). Others must be reminded of the wrath and judgment of God.

Harris is pastor, Colonial Heights, Jackson.

Reasons for giving

By David W. Spencer
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

In last week's lesson Paul dealt with the problem of motivating a church in its stewardship. Since a church is made up of many individual members, there is also the need to motivate those individuals. It is easy to listen to a sermon directed at the masses, for you can always assume that the preacher is talking about the shortcomings of your neighbor! Paul knew that to make a profound impact upon the whole church he must change the lives of the individual members. He had to demonstrate to the individual members how their lives could be affected.

To motivate individual Christians in the matter of stewardship, Paul set forth two principles:

I. The principle of sowing (6-11)

Anyone who has any experience in gardening or agriculture knows about the principle of sowing and reaping. If you are afraid to invest your seed in the soil, then you will not reap much of a harvest. I know a man with very little gardening experience who tries to grow corn in his small, backyard garden each year. He only plants a handful of seeds which in turn produce four or five stalks. He can never understand why he has no corn! He does not understand the principle of sowing and reaping.

What's wrong with a person who sows sparingly or who gives very little to the Lord? Obviously he sows or gives anxiously. In treating his stewardship in this manner, he robs himself of a great blessing. In verse 7 Paul points out the necessity of cheerfulness in giving. God does not bless us when we give out of guilt or some outer compulsion.

In verses 8-11 Paul pictures the great harvest that a generous giver can expect. As we sow the seeds of our stewardship, God blesses with a bountiful harvest. Does this mean that we'll get richer monetarily as we give? Is God some Divine Stock Market with a guaranteed financial return? No! We must understand this harvest as one of spiritual returns. Though there are certainly great testimonies of rich Christians, this is the exception and not the rule. To put

faith on our part in God's gracious gift of his son Jesus as the atonement for our sins.

There are responsibilities of belonging to the family of God. The church is formed by sinners coming to faith in Christ, but it is sustained and developed by our growing commitment. This is represented by our good works that we do. We as Christians must never laud it over others. We must remember what we were like as outsiders and instead of feeling smug about ourselves, we must seek to do everything possible to bring those outside Christ into the fellowship of the body.

There are two sides to this question. Inside or outside — on which one are you?

Kay is pastor, First, Calhoun City.

the Christian life on a materialistic basis is to rob it of faith and to dilute the gospel. Generous stewards receive a harvest of righteousness as verse 10 says.

II. The principle of praise (12-15)

As Paul reveals this second principle of stewardship, he gets to the very meaning of life itself! We are here on this earth to praise our God. Good stewardship promotes praise. Look at what would be the outcome of the Corinthians' stewardship: the physical needs of the Jerusalem Christians would be met and they, in turn, would praise God for the generosity of their brothers and sisters in Corinth. The monetary gifts of the Corinthians would serve as convincing proof to the Jewish Christians in Judea that the Gospel had the power to change even the Gentiles! The progress of the Gospel and the love of the Corinthians would cause praise to go up to God from Jerusalem.

God's gift of Jesus Christ is changing the world!

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

Trinity, Rosedale to celebrate 25th

Trinity Church, Rosedale, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the church.

Lunch will be served at the church. Special music will be presented. Bill McClellan is the pastor.

Revival results

Hopewell (Choctaw): Nine professions of faith, and three by letter; Dan Wright, pastor, Macedonia, Louisville, evangelist; Roger Griffith, pastor.

Providence (Choctaw): 18 professions of faith and two by letter; Stan Ballard, pastor, Chester, Ackerman, evangelist; W. T. Holloway, pastor.

How the body of Christ is formed

By Anthony S. Kay
Ephesians 1-2; focal, 2:1-16

As a child, I used to sing a little song that said something like this: "One door and only one and yet, the sides are two. I'm on the inside, on which side are you?" Today's lesson helps give us insight about the formation of the body of Christ—his church.

Observe, the outsiders. Those outside of Christ are guilty of trespasses and sins and as such are spiritually dead. The writer, Paul, emphasizes the dire circumstance by doubling up the terms trespasses and sins. As sinners, we walk in darkness and are influenced by satanic power. Flip Wilson's punch line, "the devil made me do it," may not relieve me or you from our personal responsibility but points out the fact that the devil does exert demonic force over us. Those outside the faith are indeed children of their father, Satan.

Note, the insiders. Those inside the body of Christ are made to dwell in the

presence of God. The spiritual death of the outsider is contrasted with the spiritual vitality of the insider. Christ is able to bring life to that which is dead.

Our camellia bush suffered severe damage during the winter freeze. It appeared to be dead and it produced no evidence of life. I severely pruned the bush during the spring. Presently, it is putting on new growth and is flourishing. In a measure, the bush has been changed from a dying, worthless one into a thriving, growing one. God does something like that in the lives of those who come by faith into the body of Christ. He takes our dying, sinful lives and brings life and spiritual growth to us.

Finally, how do we get there from here? The young man asked the "ole" timer how to get to a specific place. After starting him in one direction

and then changing several times to alternate routes, the "ole" timer said, "Son, you just can't get there from here."

I'm happy to tell you today that you can get to God. The way to God is by faith in Christ through the grace of God. The entrance into the body of Christ is through faith in Jesus as God's redemptive gift. This position is not earned. I have played in athletic sports throughout my life. I earned several "letters" during my school years. This meant that through persistent, dedicated, arduous work I earned the praise and acceptance of my coaches. The diplomas on my office wall were earned by blood, sweat, and tears.

Our salvation does not come to us through our own efforts, however valiant they may be. The body of Christ is formed by the exercise of

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